



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



November 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

As you may have guessed, this piece covers two seasons: Thanksgiving and Advent. Perhaps that is very fitting.

THANKSGIVING: Thanksgiving is the time of year we celebrate all that God has given us. We thank God for the harvest that keeps us alive. Food is part of that but certainly not all. We thank God for friends and loved ones and jobs and ... well, we thank God for enough. Enough to live on and often extra. Thanks be to God for his bounty that we get to share. Thank God for his gifts. With that in mind, Advent is the time of waiting for God's greatest gift.

ADVENT: Advent is a time of waiting, of great anticipation for the greatest gift of all time. Not the Christmas stuff that happens but for the One who is the Savior of the world, our friend, God with us. Talk about something to be thankful for!

In November we look forward to the feast of Thanksgiving and time spent with loved ones. But do not forget, even just in the back of your mind, that Advent and Jesus are coming. The greatest gift to be thankful for.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-15 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



Fall is officially here and that means our school is full of pumpkins, apples, farming and Halloween activities and adventures for our students. October is always a great time of year as our students are really comfortable and getting used to the routine and schedule of a school day. October also brings many fun topics to learn about and cool themes the teachers can take advantage of.

As autumn rolls on, we like to learn about farming, harvesting, and of course start to prepare for the holiday season by teaching our students how to be kind and give back. We have started a collection for local families in need of Christmas gifts called The Magic of Mitten. This organization is wonderful and helps so many families, we are so happy to be a part of it and it is a great way to start the season off right. Another subject is learning about pumpkins. Our students have been studying the life cycle of a pumpkin. They are figuring out how pumpkins grow and the process for having a pumpkin farm. It is perfect timing as Halloween and Thanksgiving get closer.

The students have hands-on lessons and activities that have been so interesting and of course fun, tasty, and even a little messy. Our VPK students are also learning about nocturnal animals like spiders, bats, and even hedgehogs. There are so many interesting things about these special creatures.

Of course, I cannot talk about October without mentioning Halloween. This is definitely a time of year that the students love. We just had our annual Halloween celebration with our students and families this past week, our "AGC Boo Parade/Trunk or Treat" in front of the playground. We had all of our parents here handing out candy, playing music, and getting in the spirit. It was truly a magical day for the entire AGC family!! The staff at AGC wishes everyone a happy harvest season!



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As we begin our Stewardship campaign, we thank everyone for your continued support. We hope you will open your heart and reflect on your commitment to our church and our ministries in your giving plan as we prepare for next year. On Sunday, November 10th at 10am we are hosting a Meet and Greet to give you more information on our ministries and volunteer opportunities. We hope everyone will join us in sharing your Time, Talents and Treasures with Living Lord.

Giving Tips:

1. Give by check or online through direct bank draft (livinglordfl.org—Giving tab)
2. Credit card— Make your contributions through your credit card. If you have a rewards credit card you can receive rewards and also support Living Lord (livinglordfl.org—Giving tab)
3. IRA distributions can be used to make a tax free gift directly from your IRA to Living Lord as a charitable qualified distribution. This may help your tax requirements as well as help Living Lord. Please consult your tax advisor.
4. Living Lord can accept stock donations.
5. Consider adding a gift to Living Lord in your will.
6. Purchase Scrip cards (gift cards remit money back to Living Lord)

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Lakewood Ranch Mid-Day Alcoholics Anonymous group for the efforts made by members of the group to help us with the damage to the property from the most recent hurricane.

Members of this group took it upon themselves to be of service to Living Lord Lutheran Church organizing, bringing necessary equipment and working to clean up extensive tree branches, leaves and other miscellaneous debris scattered around our large property after Hurricane Milton.



Thank you to Living Lord's
Boy Scout Troop #191
for their help with clean-up
after Hurricane Milton!

LUNCH BUNCH

will meet on Thursday, November 14th at 11:15am
at Skillet's at 9722 State Road 64. Note the early
time. All are welcome! Sign-up sheet is in the
narthex. For questions, call Deb Miller at
616-540-1745.

Council Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with a prayer and devotions by Pastor Ed. Revelations Chapter 7 - the Love of the Lamb will be with us and we need to use all of our gifts in everything we do everyday.

Minutes Approval - The July 10th minutes were approved unanimously with a correction in terminology of the First Aid Response training. Also, Red Cross training is scheduled for Aug 3, 2024 10-12noon. The August minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report - Pastor was gone for a couple weeks so the report was small. He had 66 miles driven, and attended the AGC Open house in addition to the other items in his written report. In his bible study class they will finish Galatians and move to Hebrews. AGC Chapel has started back with the new school year and they're excited for a great new year.

Call Committee Report - All paper work has been submitted to the Synod and it is currently under review.

Reports - All reports were submitted electronically and can be reviewed in the office. In addition, we will start advertising the Jazz concert that will be held on November 2, at 4pm - \$15, in the Parrish Village News and Peridia newsletter. The Evangelism team continues to work on the website and creating videos from new members on why they joined LLLC.

Financial Report - A full financial report is available in the office. As of August 31, 2024, offerings were down about 20%, as were expenses.

Offering Jan - Aug 2024 = \$215,000 Jan - Aug 2023 = \$254,000

Expensed Jan - Aug 2024 = \$245,000 Jan - Aug 2023 = \$292,000

The 2025 budget process is starting now.

Town Hall Meeting - Will be held on September 22, topics to include Call Committee Report, Building Improvement Report, Financial Report and a call for people to volunteer for Council Positions, specifically President and Secretary.

Building Improvement - Rich and his team continue to make great progress and are working hard to improve the building.

- The sign on PalmBush Trail will be installed by 9/21/24
- The Narthex has been painted
- Some trees have been trimmed or removed for safety.
- The tile floors will be polished and cleaned
- A wallpaper mural will be installed in the narthax above the interior doors

Safety and Security - THANK YOU Beverly Brockschmidt for all the work you've done on the disaster plan, scheduling the seminar's and in general for all of the work you do and continue to do for Living Lord. The disaster manual was presented and a motion to approve it was made by Rhoda and seconded by Patty. The manual was approved unanimously.

The following security seminar's are planned: This will be a three-part series presented by Deputy Tom: Oct 5th - Surveillance Awareness, Oct 12th - Active shooter Nov 2nd - Home Security

All seminars are from 10am - noon. Please bring an unopened bag of candy for trunk or treat!

Old Business - An Operations and Maintenance agreement with All God's Children has been developed by Mary and the AGC board. Mary will be sending it out to everyone for review and discussion at our next meeting.

Our next Council meeting will be October 23rd at 7pm at LLLC

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rae Dowling

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Sept 30, 2024**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan -Sept 2024 Actuals	Jan -Sept 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	265,617.00	302,331.28	(36,714.28)
Church General Fund Disbursements	278,269.10	296,620.17	18,351.07
Net Church General Fund	<u>(12,652.10)</u>	5,711.11	(18,363.21)
Church Restricted Receipts	103,939.63		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(358.56)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	99,856.13		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(8,406.10)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	197,619.32	187,786.56	9,832.76
AGC General Fund Disbursements	195,662.32	182,292.25	(13,370.07)
Net AGC General Fund	1,957.00	5,494.31	(3,537.31)
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	15,532.14		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	14,287.67		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>3,201.47</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	463,236.32	490,117.84	(26,881.52)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	473,931.42	478,912.42	4,981.00
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(10,695.10)</u>	11,205.42	(21,900.52)
Fundraising Balances	15,694.64		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	103,939.63		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	114,143.80		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>(5,204.63)</u>		
	Jan -Sept 2024 Actuals	Jan - Sept 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023			
Church General Fund Receipts	265,617.00	301,613.33	(35,996.33)
Church General Fund Disbursements	278,269.10	329,191.88	50,922.78
Net Church General Fund	<u>(12,652.10)</u>	<u>(27,578.55)</u>	14,926.45
AGC General Fund Receipts	197,619.32	196,337.58	1,281.74
AGC General Fund Disbursements	195,662.32	170,092.42	(25,569.90)
Net AGC General Fund	1,957.00	26,245.16	(24,288.16)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	463,236.32	497,950.91	(34,714.59)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	473,931.42	499,284.30	25,352.88
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(10,695.10)</u>	<u>(1,333.39)</u>	(9,361.71)

Church general fund receipts through September are \$36,700 less than 2023 and unfavorable \$36,000 to Disbursements are \$12,600 more than receipts
AGC receipts are \$1900 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
September 30, 2024	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023
\$243,062.23	\$278,009.28	\$275,822.29

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. It is a time to raise awareness about lung cancer, share our stories and help make a difference. Each November, the Lung Association issues the annual Stat of Lung Cancer report which demonstrates the toll that lung cancer takes on each state in the country.

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death in the United States for both men and women. More men die of lung cancer than the next two most deadly types of cancer for men (prostate and colorectal) combined. More women die of lung cancer (an estimated 59,280 deaths in 2024) than breast cancer (an estimated 42,250).

According to estimates by the National Cancer Institute, 234,580 patients will receive a diagnosis of lung or bronchus cancer in the United States in 2024. Some 125,070 patients will die of the disease.

Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer in the United States. Cigarette smoking causes 80% to 90% of lung cancer deaths, according to experts. Other risk factors for lung cancer include being exposed to secondhand smoke; having a family history of lung cancer; being treated with radiation therapy to the breast or chest; exposure to asbestos, chromium, nickel, arsenic, soot, or tar in the workplace; and exposure to radon. When smoking is combined with other risk factors, the risk of lung cancer increases.

FORMS OF LUNG CANCER

There are two main forms of lung cancer—small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the more common form of the disease, accounting for about 80% of diagnosed cases. The most common subtypes of NSCLC are:

- squamous cell carcinoma, which begins in the thin, flat squamous cells;
- large cell carcinoma; adenocarcinoma.

About 10% to 15% of all lung cancer cases are small cell lung cancer (SCLC). This is a fast-growing, aggressive disease with poor outcomes. Unfortunately, most patients with SCLC are diagnosed with extensive stage disease. That means it has spread beyond the lung and the area between the lungs to other lymph nodes or other parts of the body. Overall, 5% to 10% of patients with SCLC are alive five years after diagnosis.

SCREENING RECOMMENDATION

Current guidelines recommend annual screening with low-dose CT scan in adults aged 50 to 80 who have a 20-pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or stopped smoking within the past 15 years. Specifically, a pack-year is the number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day times the number of years smoking. Thus, someone who smoked one pack per day for 20 years has a 20-pack-year smoking history.

ACTION ON SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

Because of the potential impact of cigarette smoking and e-cigarette usage on cancer incidence and mortality, the AACR supports necessary measures to reduce these behaviors. Read more on the AACR blog, *Cancer Research Catalyst*: Supporting Tobacco Cessation on World Lung Cancer Day—and Beyond.

Source: American Association for Cancer Research

And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. *Acts 17:25*

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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